

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A connection element as part of a rapid connection unit for ~~hydraulic or pneumatic~~ connection lines, comprising ~~with~~ a tubular base body on which at least two two-armed snap elements are formed that are diametrically opposite one another, laterally spaced and connected at ~~their~~ a rocking point by an elastic connection ~~web piece~~ to the ~~an~~ outer wall of the base body and comprise inwardly directed hooks ~~on the free ends of their forwardly facing arms that can reach behind~~ capable of engaging a catch element (~~undercut~~) on the ~~an~~ outer wall of a counterpiece of the rapid connection unit ~~during establishment of the connection, characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~backwardly facing arms of the~~ snap elements (5) comprise ~~are designed as~~ spring arms (13) whose free ends are bent back and inward in such a manner that ~~that~~ a gap (a) is present between these free ends and an opposite contact surface in an engaged position, said opposite contact surface limiting rocking movement of said snap elements such that inwardly directing hooks disengage said catch elements ~~by which gap the rocking movement of the spring arms (13) in the direction of the base body (1) is limited to the degree corresponding to the spreading movement of the front arms of the snap elements (5) carrying the hooks (11), which spreading movement is necessary for loosening the engagement of the hooks (11) on the catch element (12) of the counterpiece (4).~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection element according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spring arms (13) ~~are bent back on their end sections at first~~ comprise at least two bent portions, a first of said at least two bent portions being bent slightly concavely outward and ~~then once in the~~ a second of said at least two bent portions being bent in a direction of the base body (1) and the gap (a) ~~limiting the rocking movement is~~ present between the free end of the spring arms (13) and the base body (1).

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection element according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that level~~ wherein the contact surfaces (10) ~~for the ends of the spring arms~~ (13) are formed on the base body (1) and run diametrically opposed to each other in ~~the~~ a direction of ~~the~~ a central axis.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (NEW) A connection element for connecting a connection line to a counterpiece, comprising:

a base body;

a stop piece operably coupled to a first end of said base body;

a stop plate operably coupled to a second end of said base body;

a first connection piece operably coupled to said first end of said base body, said first connection piece being capable of receiving said connection line;

a second connection piece operably coupled to said second end of said base body, said second connection piece being capable of being releasably coupled to said counterpiece; and

at least two snap elements, each of said snap elements being capable of releasably securing said counterpiece to said connection element and comprising:

a first snap element end comprising a spring arm;

a second snap element end comprising a hook; and

a connection piece arranged between said first and second snap element ends, said connection piece being operably coupled to base body; wherein

said snap element is biased such that said hook engages with a catch element of said counterpiece in an engaged position, and

said spring arm interacts with said stop piece to limit travel of said snap element in a release position.

7. (NEW) The connection element of claim 6, wherein said counterpiece contacts said stop plate in said engaged position such that movement of said counterpiece is restricted in a first direction by said hooks and in a second direction by said stop plate.

8. (NEW) The connection element of claim 6, wherein said second end of said base body comprises a sealing ring, said sealing ring being capable of sealing said counterpiece to said base body in said engaged position.

9. (NEW) The connection element of claim 6, wherein said spring arm comprises a rounding, said rounding being capable of interacting with said stop piece to limit travel of said snap element in said release position.

10. (NEW) The connection element of claim 6, wherein said stop piece comprises a first contact surface, said first contact surface contacting said spring arm in said engaged position.

11. (NEW) The connection element of claim 10, wherein said stop piece further comprises a second contact surface, said second contact surface contacting said spring arm in said release position.

12. (NEW) The connection element of claim 11, wherein said first and second contact surfaces cooperate with said spring arm to limit travel of said snap element in said release position.

13. (NEW) The connection element of claim 12, wherein said second end of said base body comprises a sealing ring, said sealing ring being capable of sealing said counterpiece to said base body in said engaged position.

14. (NEW) The connection element of claim 13, wherein said spring arm comprises a rounding, said rounding being capable of interacting with said stop piece to limit travel of said snap element in said release position.

15. (NEW) The connection element of claim 6, wherein said connection piece permits a rocking motion of said snap element.

16. (NEW) The connection element of claim 15, wherein said counterpiece contacts said stop plate in said engaged position such that movement of said counterpiece is restricted in a first direction by said hooks and in a second direction by said stop plate.

17. (NEW) The connection element of claim 16, wherein said stop piece comprises a first contact surface, said first contact surface contacting said spring arm in said engaged position.

18. (NEW) The connection element of claim 17, wherein said stop piece further comprises a second contact surface, said second contact surface contacting said spring arm in said release position.

19. (NEW) The connection element of claim 18, wherein said first and second contact surfaces cooperate with said spring arm to limit travel of said snap element rocking motion in said release position.

In re Application of Erminio Moretti et al.
Attorney Docket: 47623-0007
Preliminary Amendment

20. (NEW) The connection element of claim 19, wherein said second end of said base body comprises a sealing ring, said sealing ring being capable of sealing said counterpiece to said base body in said engaged position.

21. (NEW) The connection element of claim 20, wherein said spring arm comprises a rounding, said rounding being capable of interacting with said stop piece to limit travel of said snap element in said release position.